



## 4-H Youth Development

### 2000 Programs of Excellence

#### Volunteer

#### **Master 4-H Volunteer Programs in Texas** *Texas*

##### Situation

All research concerning agencies of the future leads us to know that expanding our outreach and programming components through all volunteer efforts is essential. In the arena of volunteerism, master volunteer programs are at the exemplary level of volunteer development and management.

##### Program Description

One year ago, the video and handbook "Master Volunteer Programs-An Orientation for Agents" were distributed to all 254 counties in Texas. It is currently under review for being updated. The purpose of this resource was to help determine the need for master volunteer programs at the local and county level. Along with this awareness a statewide review was implemented to credential current Master Volunteer Programs as the model to be used for all future programs.

Consistent standards have been applied to all master programs in Texas. Before the term "Master Volunteer" can be applied to a volunteer effort the following must be done:

- Review of the need for volunteers and the roles that volunteers will play.
- Determination that volunteers at the "Master" level are essential for the success of the planned effort.
- Conduct the full program (training and payback) in a pilot test in at least one district.
- Plan and conduct a minimum of 20 hours of training.
- Expect and/or contract with volunteers for a minimum of 50 hours of payback.
- Volunteers will be called "Master Volunteers" upon the successful completion of items 3 and 4.

##### Accomplishments and Impacts

To date, there are nineteen Master Volunteer Programs and

two additional Master Volunteer Programs in the pilot process at this time. Seven of those are 4-H programs; Master 4-H Poultry Volunteer, 4-H Junior Master Gardener, 4-H Swine Master Volunteer, and 4-H Method Demonstration Volunteer, 4-H Recordbook Master Volunteer, 4-H Beef Master Volunteers, and the 4-H Sheep Master Volunteers. Requirements for training for current programs are 16 hours (grandfathered in) to 64 hours. Payback hours are from 25 hours to 150 hours. Many of these programs are being implemented in anywhere from several to more than 50 counties at the same time.

#### Collaborators

Collaborators include: Community Health Departments, The Chicago Board of Trade, Texas Fisheries & Wildlife, Public and Private School Educators, Apparel and Home Interior Consultants, Texas Legislators, Environmental Protection Agency, Solid and Hazard Waste Management Agencies, Local Producers, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Child Care Agencies, Law Enforcement Agencies, Social Service Agencies, Various Military Bases throughout Texas, Retail Sales Personnel, Local Water Districts, Community Family Education Units and local government and elected officials. Currently, there are two additional pilots being developed that are involving the Department of Public Safety, Childrens' Protective Services, Real Estate Brokers, Mortgage Companies, Community Developers and Family Housing Agencies.

#### Contact Person(s)

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#### **Kraft/4-H Fight Against Hunger**

*Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, National 4-H Council*

#### Situation

While the economy is strong and booming, the demand for emergency food assistance has increased., more than one-fifth of all food requests go unmet. Four million American children under the age of 12 regularly experience hunger while nearly 10 million more are at risk of hunger. Studies show that hunger among elderly Americans also continues to be a major national problem with requests for food assistance by elderly persons increasing an average six percent last year. As many as 35 million Americans go hungry.

Oklahoma youth have been involved in collecting canned goods during Halloween and the State 4-H Ambassadors are doing food drives as a program emphasis all year; however, there is still a need to mobilize youth in a service project to fight hunger. This commitment from 4-H is supported by USDA Secretary Dan Glickman's personal commitment to alleviating hunger through efforts ranging from gleaning to food banks.

#### Program Description

4-H'ers in Oklahoma joined selected locations in Texas and Kansas in a pilot test program with National 4-H Council, America's Second Harvest, Kraft Foods and Homeland stores to collect non-perishable foods. In the pilot, teams of youth with a 4-H adult volunteer staffed non-perishable food collection sites at designated Homeland stores on two designated Saturdays in December. These dates were selected because of their proximity to Thanksgiving and Christmas and America's focus on helping others during this holiday season. In addition to collecting food items, groups accepted cash donations that were then used to purchase Kraft brand products for the project. In one location youth provided shoppers with free coffee or apple cider and accepted cash donations that they then used to shop for Kraft products. Using consumer skills, the youth discovered that several low cost items could be purchased and added to the number of Kraft items rather than buying a more expensive food item, thus increasing the number of meals donated by Kraft to feeding shelters.

#### Stakeholder Satisfaction

In response to the call for pilot sites, 24 counties with Homeland grocery stores voluntarily participated in the collection project. Extension educators recruited youth and adult volunteers who staffed the collection sites. Some 352 4-H members and 127 adult volunteers staffed collection sites at 34 locations. The sponsor, Kraft Foods, was pleased with the outcome of the pilot project.

#### Accomplishments and Impacts

From the reports submitted, it was found that 8,280 food items were collected. Of the items collected, 5,423 were Kraft brand items, so for each of those items collected, a meal was donated to America's Second Harvest feeding programs and foodbanks by Kraft. For at least one day, some 5,423 people received a hot meal as a result of the product match; and numerous others received items from local food pantries where collected products were donated. While no formal evaluation was done regarding impact, certainly the youth who participated also gained personal satisfaction from helping others and the promotional efforts, and promotional items (T-shirts, store signs and billboards) did increase 4-H visibility.

### Collaborators

America's Second Harvest, Kraft Foods and Homeland stores, along with USDA and National 4-H Council were partners in the project along with the staff in selected counties in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.

### Contact Person(s)

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### Other Base Program Areas This Program Applies To

Community Resource & Economic Development

4-H Youth Development

Leadership and Volunteerism

## **Preparing 4-H Volunteer Leaders For the New Millennium**

### *Mississippi*

### Program Description

Volunteer training is the key to a successful 4-H program. Effective leader training furthers not only the growth and maintenance of the 4-H program, but also the personal development of each volunteer. Volunteers furnish most of the energy, skills, and resources that keep Mississippi 4-H moving forward. A strong 4-H program develops as persons, who are aware of the 4-H youth development mission, discover that 4-H provides for learning, which they want or need for their children or themselves. Motivation for leadership is rooted in consent to common goals and the satisfaction of personal growth. As we cross the bridge into the new millennium, Mississippi 4-H focused on "Preparing 4-H Volunteer Leaders for the New Millennium" as one of its primary goals for fiscal (FY) 2000. To accomplish this goal, a plan was implemented to conduct 4-H volunteer leader trainings at the District and State levels. The District and State training conferences provided an opportunity for volunteers in Mississippi to be prepared for new millennium.

4-H Volunteer and Extension professionals were involved both at the District and State levels in planning the training conferences. A total of six 1-day district training conferences were held and a 3-day Statewide training conference was planned and conducted during FY00. Volunteers participated in sixty-two different workshops at the seven training conferences. Based on evaluation results from the conferences, all work met the goal of preparing our volunteers for the new millennium. More than 650 volunteers participated in the seven training conferences.

### Accomplishments and Impacts

- Volunteer and Extension Agents involvement in planning and implementing the District Training Conferences.
- Empowerment of volunteers in planning and implementing the training conferences.
- Utilization of local community resources free of charge.
- Involvement of the District Extension Administrator in the planning process.
- Involvement of both Volunteers and Extension Agents and Specialist in presenting the workshops.
- Involvement of Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association members in planning, implementing and evaluating the training conferences.
- Utilization of the four District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association
- Utilizing the experiential learning model to prepare volunteers.
- Support of State 4-H Program Leader
- Support of Extension Administration

### Collaborators

Mississippi State University Extension Service; Mississippi State University Research Centers; Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association; District 4-H Volunteer Leaders Associations; Mississippi 4-H Foundation Board; Mississippi Community Colleges; Certain Local Public School Districts; Mississippi General Assembly.

### Contact Person(s)

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